New!

The Black Mirror News Reflections

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NJPAC

New Jersey Performing Arts Center opens October 18th, in downtown Newark

on the cover:

Gail L. Thompson

Vice President of Design & Construction for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Corporation – (see page 2)

HELP WANTED LISTINGS

– SEE PAGE 4

NEW JERSEY EDITION
BLACK MIRROR NEWS
True stories that aren't in the dailies

Address all Editorial and Advertising Correspondence to:

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SUBSCRIBE TODAY! We'll mail you all the social and nightlife news about black folks from all overthe tri-state area. *Check out the story behind the story – true stories that aren't in the dailies.*

On the cover –

Ms. Gail L. Thompson

October 18, 1997, will see the Gala Opening of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, NJ.

As Vice President of Design and Construction for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Corporation, Ms. Thompson is responsible for coordinating the design and construction of the $165 million Arts Center to be located in Downtown Newark. In this capacity she spearheaded the development of the project's Master Plan. Gail further assembled and manages the work of all design and construction professionalism the development of the 255,000 square foot theater building and infrastructure for the twelve acre site.

She is a registered architect and member of the American Institute of Architects. She was also a member of the Manhattan Borough President's Council for Planning for Pedestrians.

Gail holds a commercial pilot's license and flight instructor rating. She has been actively involved in the exposure of aviation to minority youth. In her spare time, she enjoys flying and teaching young people to fly. She is past President of the New Jersey Chapter of NAI Black Wings In Aviation, a national organization endeavoring to promote aviation in the black community. Ms. Thompson most recently received CBS Television's "Fulfilling The Dream" award for her efforts in introducing young people to the world of flight. Ms. Thompson is founder of the NAI New Jersey Chapter's summer aviation camp for high school students which is entering its fifth year.

The building of NJPAC begins the true renaissance of downtown Newark, which will include a minor league baseball stadium and a riverfront park modeled on the Baltimore Inner Harbor Park.

POLLY TICKS...

DID YOU KNOW that two of New York's most popular mayors were born and raised in New Jersey? **David Dinkins** is from Trenton, NJ and former mayor **Edward I. Koch** is from Newark, NJ. So when you you think about New Jersey (and Newark) remember they do develop and raise people who control most of the big world in 'polly ticks'

Mayor Sharpe James plans for the Monorail Connection is expected to generate 3,000 permanent jobs and so we see the Mayor is not just wasting time

If you are Haitian or Bermudian and come from anywhere in the Caribbean – unit and vote if you are a U.S. citizen. Remember all of us had better come together. Politics is your main strength. Note: This goes for Black Americans and African transplants, we are all the same people.

Mayor Cardell Cooper of East Orange is slated for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, so says Senator Frank R. Lautenberg. And, he should know, don't you think?

DEMOCRATIC MAYORAL NOMINEE BOB BOWSER LAUNCHES VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE TO BOLSTER VOTER TURNOUT IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION.

Seeks working relationship with local Democrats

EAST ORANGE, NJ – Democratic mayoral nominee Robert L. Bowser, who won the East Orange mayoral primary by a slim margin of 52 votes, announced that his campaign is launching a voter registration drive to increase voter participation in the November General Election.

"My campaign is far from over. Although I won the Democratic nomination, the June Primary demonstrated the importance of everyone's vote. More importantly, voters should be reminded that they need to turn out in large numbers at the polls in the November General Election to assure a Democratic Victory. Our goal is to register as many voters as possible, Bowser continued.

"The Bowser campaign is launching a voter registration drive to educate people about the importance of participating in the political process. The people who will decide on critical issues which affect our lives locally and at the State House, will be elected in the November General Election," Bowser said.

Among the many critical issues that will confront the winners of the November General Election over the next four years are how to begin the process of rebuilding East Orange and how to put the City back on the road to fiscal recovery. We will focus our efforts on reducing the tax burden, building a safer community, attracting new business and increasing our tax base, cleaning up our community and developing a sound economic base.

Bowser, who led the Democrats to rebuild East Orange slate of candidates for Council, Assembly and Sheriff, says that in order to begin the process of rebuilding East Orange, voter participation has to be maximized in order to assure that "our voice is heard and that we send a clear, persuasive message in local and statewide elections, with our vote at the polls in November."

"Voters in November will decide who will serve as the next Governor, and it is very important that East Orange Democrats come out to support the entire slate of Democrats running in the November General Election. East Orange needs a Governor who will be sensitive to the needs of the urban Cities. To this end, I want to work with all the candidates who were successful in the June Primary in registering as many new voters as possible and trying to beat out the vote for Democrats. I am asking the hundreds of people who worked in my primary campaign to now join in with the City and County Democratic Party to insure a large turnout in November," Bowser said.

KAMILAH YASIN– Graduated from the University of Michigan Business School with a MBA degree. She is currently employed at the Nations Bank, Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Best of PERCY

'Judge I'm Sure Glad You Decided To Award My Wife $.50 A Week Cause I Ain't Got A Dime!'

OUR MEDIA WATCH

FROM A RECENT STAR-LEDGER ARTICLE

By Carrie Stetler

We just loved the recent profile on Montclair mystery writer **Valerie Wilson Wesley**, whose mystery novels about a black female detective are set in Newark, NJ.

Valerie Wilson Wesley wrote her first Tamara Hayle mystery three years ago, the character has found a loyal and growing audience. With each new installment – the fourth volume in the series, "*No Hiding Place*," was published by Putman last month – Wesley's book tours have gotten bigger. When Wesley is out in public, strangers are starting to recognize her.

Although Tamara Hayle has fans in Europe, Tamara herself remains firmly in Newark. Except for a fling in Jamaica – in the book "*Where Evil Sleeps*" – all of the Hayle books are set in the city.

Newark readers have demanded the address of Jan's Beauty Biscuit, where Hayle gets her hair done, and the name of the central Avenue "fish fry joint" where she orders sandwiches with hot sauce on the side. (Wesley claims both places are fictional.) Some even insist that Wesley is writing about people they know (she says the characters are "composites").

Help Wanted

SECRETARY – Busy government department seeks entry level secretary with excellent typing skills (60+) and short hand. Person must be well organized, able to work well under pressure and have computer knowledge. Send resume to: **The Black Mirror News, P.O. Box 1480, Newark, New Jersey 07101**

SECRETARY – Experienced secretary (10 years plus) for a busy government department. Computer skills needed along with typing (60+) and short hand. Person must be well organized, able to work well under pressure, provide administrative and clerical assistance of a highly complex nature, produce documents informs of agendas, minutes, transcripts, etc. Legal experience a plus. Send resume to: **The Black Mirror News, P.O. Box 1480, Newark, New Jersey 07101.**

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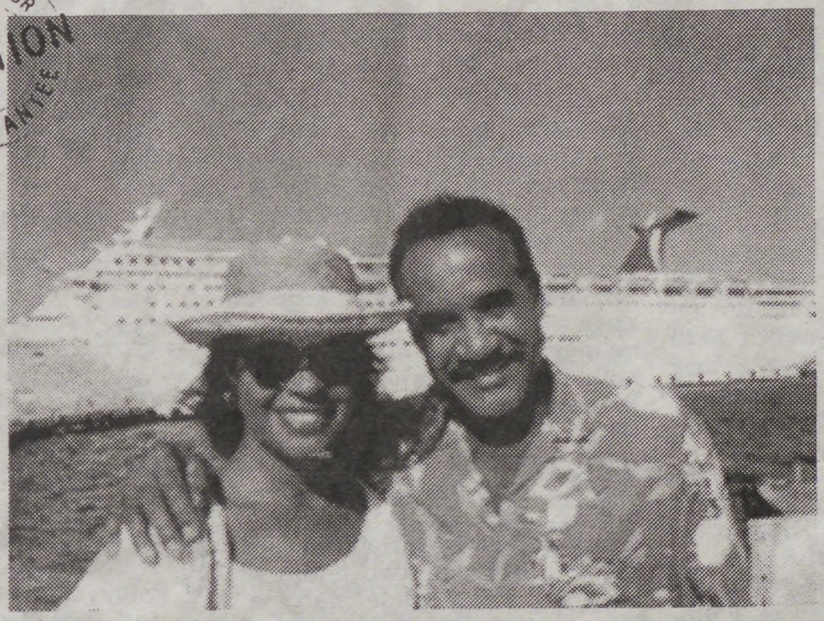

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FALLING LEAVES

MRS. ALBERTA BRINSON WRIGHT

Nurse

ALBERTA ANN BRINSON WRIGHT better known as "Bootsy" was born in Newark, NJ on April 8, 1940 to Carl J. Brinson and the late Alberta Brinson. She departed this life on September 7, 1997 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center after a long illness.

Alberta was formerly married to Wesley Wright and from that union two children were born Ibn Wright who predeceased her and Malikita Wright.

Alberta attended the Newark Public School systems and graduated from South Side High School, January, 1958. She furthered her education by attending Essex County Vocational School of Nursing, and Essex County College where she pursued studies to obtain her Bachelors degree in Nursing.

Alberta held numerous nursing positions: Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Intensive Care Unit, St. Michael's Cardiac Care Unit, University Medical Center's Emergency department and until her death was employed as a nurse and former Acting Health Coordinator at Newark Pre-School Council Inc.

Bootsy as she was affectionately known as leaves to cherish fond memories, her beloved daughter Malikita Wright; a loving father, Carl Brinson; two grandchildren, Zahir Wright and Manu Smith; three devoted sisters, Carletta Mitchell, Joyce Sanchez, and Tawana Brinson; four nieces, Sadiq Mitchell, Kyletta Sanchez-Turner, Carlett Sanchez and Armani Brinson; two aunts Marie Liggins and Gertrude Madison and two uncles Ralph Liggins and Pierce Madison and a host of other cousins and friends.

She will forever be loved and missed by each person who's life she touched for she possessed an inter strength and a smile that will always be remembered.

BARBARA A. HAIRSTON

Passed away on September 14, 1997, she was the wife of James Hairston, a former Chief of Data Processing, Housing Authority of the City of Newark.

TYRONE GRANT

Hero to Newark youngsters

TYRONE GRANT didn't have any sons or daughters, but hundreds of children considered him a part of their family.

"He was a big brother, he was a father, he was a friend to all the kids he met," said Cynthia Banks, who was Mr. Grant's boss when he worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Newark. "The bottom line is that kids were his life. He touched so many youngsters."

Mr. Grant was also famous for his field trips to Coney Island, karate tournaments and Sandy Hook where he taught his charges how to fish. "He loved fishing" said Geraldine Code, a co-worker of Mr. Grant for 10 years. "He'd take the guys to the boat, then they'd come back and fry the fish up."

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What's New in Newark...

Along with the gala opening of the **NJPAC** on the north end of Broad Street on October 18, check out Newark's only repertory theater, the **AFRICAN GLOBE THEATRE** on the south end of Broad Street at **Symphony Hall Second Floor Theater**, 1028 Broad Street, Newark, (973) 624-1584. The new production "**The Negro Building**" begins **Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. through October 17, 18,** and **19; October 24, 25** and **26.** (All seats are only **$10.00**) along with free on-site secure parking.

Here's Chuck Cummings, the playwright's statement:

"*The Negro Building*" is a play inspired by a place. When I lived in Atlanta, my apartment was across the street from Piedmont Park – Atlanta's version of New York's Central Park, but on a much smaller scale. Anyone who strolls the terraced grounds of Piedmont Park will notice broad stone staircases that lead nowhere, and carved stone bases meant for missing statues – remnants of Piedmont Park's original function, a life predating softball tournaments and walkathons. My curiosity about the park's origins grew each time I visited.

Encouraged write a play about Atlanta by Eddie Billups at the Arts Exchange, I discovered that Piedmont Park was originally created as the site of the 1895 Cotton States and International Exhibition. The park's stone staircases led to grandly designed buildings showcasing "Manufacturing," "Electricity," "Art," and yes – Negroes! There was a "Negro Building" at the Exhibition, and the keynote speaker opening the Exhibition was Booker T. Washington. As I did more research, particularly reading the text of Booker T. Washington's keynote address, I realized that many of the issues he addressed (or attempted to address) are relevant today. And that there was drama to be found in the "Negro Building" and the fact that a black man was "allowed" to speak at an Exhibition in the heart of the Jim Crow South.

As I "looked for the drama," the painter Henry Ossawa Tanner (who had a painting displayed in the Negro Building) somehow muscled his way into the play. Also, Washington's wife, Margaret, demanded to take center stage, and much of the play shifted to Paris. I'm not quite sure how these things happened. Some choices were based on unexpected inspiration, others on conscious consideration of the craft of playwriting. But if I succeed at all in creating drama, I owe it to a willingness to let my curiosity lead me to places I never expected to go.

❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

Note: For those of us who missed The African Globe's recent production of "*When a Diva Dreams*," it will be repeated in March of 1998, by popular demand. Don't miss it again! (smiles) Kabu Okai-Davis is founder, executive director and a producer at the African Globe Studio, (973) 624-1584.

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2nd Floor Theatre

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Produced by James W. Lemon
Executive Producer Kabu Okai-Davies

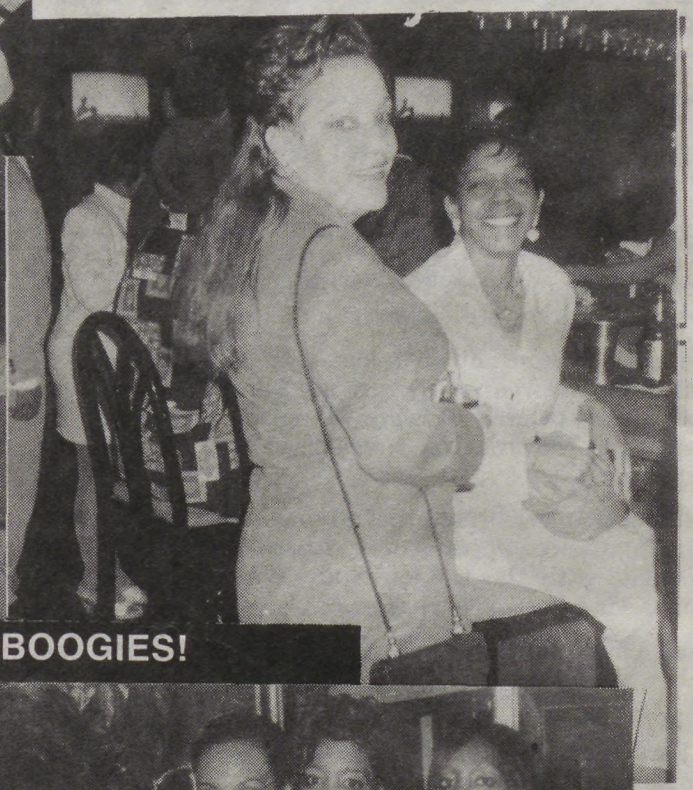
It was Glamour at the TOP BRASS

Glamour with our nephew

Polly Ticks & W.B.G.O. and all that jazz!

Some businesswomen on the prowl...(smiles)

COREAN DUNN'S 92ND NATAL DAY – Recently Nine Mason, Katie Ramsey, and Ollie Dunn, Jr. threw a big surprise birthday bash for their lovely mom Corean Dunn. Family and friends enjoyed a sumptious buffet of home cooked "soul food," sparking cider, and birthday cake. Dancing music as provided by a D.J. in a beautifully pink, white and lavener festooned hall. Congratulations!



Hey it's true: they say Friday *is* BOOGIES!

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AFTER HOURS AFTER HOURS...

Kim and Pam two of the most charming airline hostess, and a pleasure to be around anytime – smiles...

Sam Maniqualt the counselor of law wearing a mean chalk stripped double breasted black suit with a white-on-white shirt and a blood red tie – real smart...

Everybody is talking about the Commerce Food Court & La Boulangerie Bakery at the corner of Raymond Blvd. & Mulberry Street, Newark, NJ. The bread is delicious, try some...

Audrey and Calvin D. West, home from Rome, Italy and sea cruise around the Greek Islands, Istanbul, Turkey and then onto Venice, Italy. The personal visit to the Mosque in Turkey still have them talking...

Steward's Restaurant on Lyons Ave. has *new* hours 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday... Send your good wishes to Mrs. Steward, because she's one of the pioneers in Newark, NJ. *Note: We'll have her complete story soon...*

Last week we celebrated the "Alvin Attles," South Ward Cultural Center opening. Mr. Attles is currently vice president with the Golden State Warriors basketball team, he is a native Newarker....

T'was a happy birthday to Shelley M. Murphy September 27th, who is a babydoll – smiles...

Hotel Robert Treat Roof Garden Fashion Show sponsored by Lorraine Middleton was a real 'gas' great smiles with commentator Lenny Hamilton...

CUT OUT AND MAIL

Happy Birthday!

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Don't forget the Newark Branch NAACP 83rd Freedom Fund Dinner,on Friday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Robert Treat Travelodge, 50 Park Place, Newark. Donation: $50.00 (No tickets paid at door) For information and tickets: call (973) 624-6400. The1997 theme is "*And Still We Rise*" . U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, will be featured buest speaker, she is a leading voice on Women's Issues and Environmental Racism.

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By ADA

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Taking your generosity to the extremes can cause you to give to unworthy objects of charity. There are a lot of worthy causes needing your attention, so learn to be more discriminating.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 22

The plan may not be yours, but you have the ability to work out the ideas and successfully complete the project.

GEMINI MAY 23-JUNE 21

What's with the hysterics? Your capabilities and adaptability make it possible for you to be successful whatever your position.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Get away from the people you don't like. Association can cause you great pain. This unpleasantness can feed on your vitality.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Bringing sunshine and happiness into the lives of your friends is as much a part of you as your lofty wish to rise above the crowd.

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

A lot of exercise for both mind and body will keep you from worrying yourself sick. Seek open air and pleasant surroundings.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Get out of bed with your day planned, so that you will be less likely to let someone else's ideas change your mind. Stick with your plans.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Stay out of other people's affairs. You should not be using what you learn to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 22

Seeking honest answers can cause problems for you. Have a little regard for the secret side of other people.

CAPRICORNUS DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 20

Real success depends on knowing yourself. Being overly sensitive and self-conscious can make you unnecessarily distant.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 19

Try to keep your promises. You have a problem doing this. Also don't ask for advice because you really don't want it.

PISCES FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 20

New ideas can enrich your life. Your thoughtfulness and logic will get you through, if you are willing to place your trust in your ability.

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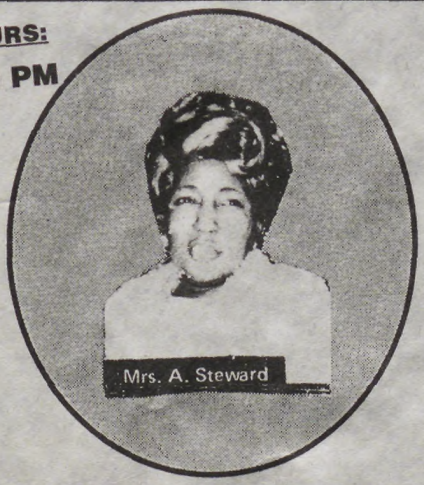
8 AM - 9 PM



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SOCIAL CALENDAR

OCT. 14TH– The Englewood Social Club's 30th Anniversary Golf Tournament, honoring Whittie English at Pascack Brook Golf Course, Riverdale, NJ 07625 (201) 664-5886. Proceeds to benefit the College Fund/UNCF.

OCT. 18TH – Gala opening of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in downtown Newark.

OCT. 19TH – Bill and Connie Woodruff Memorial Service at Trinity Street Philips Cathedral, 608 Broad Street on Military Park, Newark, NJ time 12 noon. Reception following at 24 Rector Street, Newark.

OCT. 24TH – Newark Branch NAACP 83rd Freedom Fund Dinner,on Friday, , at 7:00 p.m. at the Robert Treat Travelodge, 50 Park Place, Newark. Donation: $50.00 (No tickets paid at door) For information and tickets: call (973) 624-6400.

ROBERT TREAT HOTEL – The graduate Karen Shakur Hall, the daughter of Mrs. Sally Caldwell celebrated with many folks who came to wish her well. Karen works in the Essex County Prosecutor's office. Tope aide for mayor Sharpe James, Calvin West and Judge Booker said great words of encouragement for she is a mother who held a job and still continued to go for the higher achievement.

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BUT, WHAT ABOUT MY HAIR ?

The writer of this article, Theresa Hemmingway, is a licensed cosmetologist,and proprietor of Nervana Hair Studio Inc. Hillside, NJ

My fellow professionals: As all licensed cosmetologists know, the descriptive term "cosmetologist" means, one skilled in the professional practice of improving beauty.

However, there are individuals who are not licensed who call themselves cosmetologist. Should they be allowed to destroy the meaning of what our trade represents? More than likely the answer would be no! Yet, there are people operating out of their homes, in unskilled salons and wherever they can – to get a 'fast buck'. The real cosmetologist must stand up for the trade so that it can gain the respect it deserves. We should come together and put these frauds out of business.

How we can stop these people? (*Answer*) – truthfully, we all know someone or have known of people operating without a valid cosmetology license. In order to maintain a high quality of hair care, when we encounter these situations it should be reported to the Newark Board of Cosmetology/Consumers Affair Dept. in Newark, NJ.

Remember we can educate our clients. Making them aware of the chemical, thermal, as well as the internal damages that occur from a non-licensed person. Too many times you will encounter clients who come into a licensed salon with extreme hair/scalp damage. Most of them admit that the damage occurred in the home or in a salon where the person was thought to have a license. We should try to explain to our clients that no one is safe just because they went to a salon, and they should go that "extra step" to may sure that the shop is licensed.

What about those Beauty Supply Shops...

Most folks would assume that if cosmetologists are the only ones who should be practicing the trade, then "why is it that some beauty supply stores sell products to non-licensed consumers when the law specially states that the products are for "*Professional Use Only*"? These beauty supply stores should also be reported to the State Bd. of Cosmetology and the Better Business Bureau. If all licensed cosmetologists actively follow-up on these recommendations, we can put an end to the so,etimes degrading reputation that falls upon our trade, due to the faults of others.

Notes on "Doing Hair" –

Many clients do not fully understand the importance of a hairstylist. We are cosmetologists and do not "do hair" we create hair. We reach deep into the papilla and plant the seed, which grows flowers of beautiful hair! Only a "real" cosmetologist can relate and appreciate that particular phrase. We are true holders of this art form and must educate our clients to this fact.

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